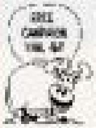
SPORTS / A19
Efren 'Bata' Reyes chosen Player of the Decade by US Billiards writers

WORLD / A23
Woman suicide bomber kills 54 in Iraq

METRO / A21
Weekend repairs to snarl traffic on Edsa

BUSINESS / B1
Strong peso to help temper inflation in 2010

## Jamby's 'candidates': It's Noynoy or Nicky



By Jerry E. Esplanada

HAD SHE NOT JOINED the May presidential derby, Sen. Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal said she would be supporting ei-

JAMBY'S A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 • 7 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 57 P18



# Ping sneaks out of RP

## Lacson, in Australia, says he left to elude 'evil conspiracy'

By Christine O. Avendaño

BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, SEN. PANFILO LACSON HAS flown the coop.

But the senator, who is facing charges in connection with the November 2000 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, disclaimed guilt, saying he left the country because he did not want to fall prey to an "evil conspiracy" purportedly hatched by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This is one case that I will dispute the argument 'flight is an indication of guilt,'" Lacson yesterday said in a text message to the Inquirer and in a subsequent statement he issued to other media outlets.

"I am not guilty but I cannot risk putting my life and security at the mercy of that evil conspiracy," he said.

Lacson, who has not been seen at the Senate since Congress resumed session on Jan. 18, was apparently compelled to break his silence after Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan told reporters that he had been put on the watch list.

Being on the Bureau of Immigration watch list means that authorities have to be notified of one's arrival or departure.

Lacson said Libanan's announcement confirmed what he had "correctly suspected"—that the "harassment" by the Department of Justice (DOJ) "upon the order of Malacañang will never stop."

"That's exactly the reason I left the country. I am a victim of a conspiracy of whispers between Ms Arroyo and her stooge in the DOJ," Lacson said.

Earlier yesterday, Libanan said Lac-

PING A6

## Senate OKs plunder suit vs Jocjoc

THE SENATE ADOPTED LAST NIGHT a blue ribbon committee report seeking the filing of plunder and other charges against former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante et al., as well as an explanation from President Macapagal-Arroyo on her role in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

The committee report was approved without interpellation two days before Congress is scheduled to adjourn its session and take a three-month break for the election period.

Bolante is running for governor of Capiz under the Ugyon Kita Capiz party, which is allied with the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

The blue ribbon committee chair, Sen.

SENATE A11



STAND UP AND DELIVER Sen. Manny Villar finally faces his peers in the Senate to give his side on the C-5 ethics case. He refuses to be interpellated and walks out.

C-5 ETHICS CASE

## Villar takes Senate floor: It's nothing but politics

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

FIGHTING AMONG SENATORS ERUPTed anew last night when emotions ran high after Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. left the session hall and ignored requests from some of his colleagues to answer questions on the C-5 road controversy.

Villar left the session hall soon after he delivered a very long privilege speech to deny allegations against him in Committee Report No. 780.

The report seeks to censure him for unethical conduct in connection with the road extension project in Parañaque and Las Piñas that traversed properties owned by his real estate firms.

A fight broke out between Sen. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano after the former "challenged" Villar to show that he was "not a coward" by answering their queries.

Irritated as well of Villar's sudden exit from the Senate, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who prepared the report as chair of the Senate committee of the whole, lamented that the senator had not faced his accusers.

"I'm sorry for him that he came here like a boxer and fighter but he left with alacrity and with no explanation," Enrile said.

Enrile, nevertheless, was thankful that Villar showed up to "explain his side to the people" and said it was up to them to decide whether he or the committee report was telling the truth.

But Enrile said he was standing by his report which he said was backed by 990 documents "that could not be" compared with Villar's "hollow" statements "to justify one's misconduct."

The report found that Villar had failed to declare a conflict of interest in the C-5 project. He was paid for right of way by the government and the val-

VILLAR A6

## Comelec plays down issue of jammers

By Kristine L. Alave

WHAT, ME WORRY?

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday downplayed the ability of cell phone signal jammers to disrupt the country's first nationwide computerized elections on May 10.

Everybody else is going bananas a day after the Comelec itself announced that a shipment of 5,000 devices that could block the transmission of election results by cell phones had the potential of disrupting the balloting.

"This won't undermine the result, although it could delay it," Comelec Chair Jose Melo said. "Even if you jam

COMELEC A6

## 12 senators, ex-justices say no to GMA naming CJ

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

JUMPING THE GUN ON PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, 12 senators led by principal author Francis Pangilinan yesterday filed a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Malacañang should not make midnight appointments in the judiciary as mandated by the Constitution.

Senate Resolution No. 1550 states that Ms Arroyo is not authorized to name the new Chief Justice from March 10 until she steps down on June 30.

Two retired Supreme Court justices took the same position.

In a statement, titled "Defending the Last Bastion of Democracy," Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez and Ma. Alicia Austria Martinez urged Ms Arroyo to respect the Constitution and leave it to the next President to appoint Chief Justice Reynato Puno's replacement.

Gutierrez and Austria-Martinez said that should the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) submit a short list of nominees, it would constitute "direct complicity in the desecration of the fundamental law."

"We cannot simply sit idly and witness an obvious illegal attempt to appoint a new Chief Justice during the constitutional ban on appointments under Section 15, Article VII of the

12 SENATORS A6

## Poll body OKs makeover of May 10 ballots

By Kristine L. Alave

THE BALLOT TO BE USED IN THE May elections has undergone a makeover with the names of candidates listed horizontally instead of vertically.

In an en banc meeting yesterday, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) approved the new layout and design to save space upon the recommendation of the poll body's technical working committee and Smartmatic-TIM Corp.

POLL BODY A11

## Heroes' welcome but no way to mark a birthday



SALUTE FOR HEROES The Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, leads government officials in giving arrival honors at Villamor Air Base to four Filipinos, including three soldiers who were members of the peacekeeping force in Haiti.

By Jerome Aning and Tina G. Santos

IT WAS NO WAY TO MARK A BIRTHday—three birthdays at that.

But that was exactly what happened to the family of Philippine Army Sgt. Eustacio Bermudez Jr., one of four Filipinos who died in the powerful Jan. 12 Haiti earthquake.

Bermudez's remains, along those of the three other Filipino peacekeepers, arrived yesterday, a day after what should have been his 38th birthday.

Feb. 1 was not Bermudez's birthday only. Monday was also the birthday of his mother, Teresita, and of his wife, Ruby Jean.

"It was triple grief for us," Teresita said.

Also killed in the Haiti quake were Navy Data Processor 3 Pearly Panangui, Air Force Sgt. Janice Arocena and UN executive assistant Jerome Yap. They were all working in UN offices in the Haiti capital of Port-au-Prince

HEROES A10

WEATHER FORECAST

# Second FrontPage

| EZ2 | |
|---|---|
| 3 | 20 |
| 4 | 27 |
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| SUERTRES | | |
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| 3 | 2 | 8 |
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SIX DIGIT: 3 6 0 9 8 8

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN: 2 5 9 32 34 42 — P12,991,336.00

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 21 25 35 43 45 49 — P114,617,062.60

## Most Filipino women still clueless about HIV/AIDS

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

[illegible]

REBELLION CASE

# QC judge picked to try Ampatuans

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE ELDERLY JUDGE SMILED WRYLY AFTER THE spinning wheel stopped at number 77.

[illegible]

## Pag-Ibig members to get P8.5B in dividends

[illegible]

# Pinoy defrauding Pinoys in US held

NEW YORK—A woman accused of running a pyramid scheme that preyed on Filipino immigrants in New York has been arrested, prosecutors said Monday.

Ruth Canedo, 41, was arrested on Friday in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and was to be brought before a judge Monday on charges of defrauding the Filipino community of more than one million dollars.

Between January 2003 and July 2008, Canedo allegedly solicited funds that she said would be invested in two companies—Lady of Lourdes and R&K Nassau—that provided services to Filipino nurses and families looking to immigrate.

"In fact, Canedo did not invest the victims' money in Lady of Lourdes or R&K Nassau, but rather transferred the bulk of the money to personal bank accounts, or deposited it into dozens of accounts and withdrew it as cash," the office for the US attorney in southern New York said.

The accused, also known as [illegible], allegedly told her victims they would earn a return of three to 50 percent annually.

Some were paid what they were told was interest. "In fact, these 'interest' payments were simply made from the funds Canedo received from other victims, to create the impression that the investments were generating returns," the US attorney's office said.

"Canedo's fraudulent scheme cost dozens of victims a total of more than one million dollars." If found guilty of mail fraud and wire fraud, Canedo faces a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. AFP

# Ship with Pinoy crew released

[illegible]—SOMALI PIRATES [illegible] A Greek-owned cargo ship on Monday and its 22-member crew, majority of them Filipinos, held since November last year after receiving a ransom payment, officials in Greece said.

A naval patrol statement said the [illegible] was heading for the Kenyan port of Mombasa along with its crew—18 Filipinos, three Greeks and a Romanian. Officials said the crew were in good health.

The ship's owner, [illegible] Shipping, confirmed that ransom was paid but refused to say how much.

The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel was seized on Nov. 11 in the Gulf of Aden while transporting fertilizer from Kuwait to Durban, South Africa.

A pirate on board the ship, however, told Reuters earlier that they were expecting to receive $3 million for the ship.

Helicopters dropped the ransom onto the vessel, said Andrew Mwangura of the Kenya-based East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme.

"She is now steaming out to safe waters. All crew members are said to be safe," he added.

"We took the money from the ship ... the ship started sailing and there's navy ships guarding it," said the pirate who called himself [illegible], adding that he and his colleagues were heading on their own midboat to the pirate hideout of [illegible].

Pirates who have ransomed multimillion dollar ransoms for the release of the vessels they capture, [illegible] in impoverished Somalia. The failed state has not had a functioning government for a generation. *AP/Reuters*



## STATEMENT OF PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS OF THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

We, the undersigned past National Presidents of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, strongly condemn the actions of a powerful yet subservient few who are proposing to commence the procedure in nominating applicants for the vacancy to be left by Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno prior to his mandatory retirement on May 17, 2010.

Under Section 15, Article VII of the Constitution, the President is prohibited from making any appointments at least two (2) months prior to the next Presidential Elections. In fact, the Supreme Court categorically declared in the case of **In Re Appointments**, 298 SCRA 408 (1998), "that this ban not only applies to the Executive but also to the Judiciary."

The proposal to appoint a Chief Justice is obviously intended to circumvent this Constitutional prohibition against midnight appointments and lay the basis for the outgoing President to appoint a Chief Justice of her choice despite the absence of a vacancy. This is sheer arrogance of power.

It is preposterous for those behind this ludicrous proposal to claim that the proposition is necessary in order for the Supreme Court to function unhampered by the "hiatus" occasioned by a vacancy in the High Tribunal. At present, the Supreme Court is composed of Chief Justice Puno and 14 Justices. Upon the retirement of Chief Justice Puno, 14 Associate Justices will be more than enough to constitute a quorum.

At that point in time, by operation of law, the most senior Associate Justice will then take the place of Chief Justice Puno as Acting Chief Justice pursuant to Section 2 of the Judiciary Act of 1948. This is a time-honored tradition observed for more than half a century in the history of the Supreme Court.

It is sheer sophistry to say now that this rule of succession has been repealed by the 1987 Constitution. Section 3 Article XVIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that "all existing laws not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked." The framers of the 1987 Constitutional Commission are clear in their deliberations that in the event of the inability of the Chief Justice to act in any capacity, for any reason, including his retirement, the most senior Associate Justice shall assume the position as Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In fact, the same rule of succession was followed in 1992 at the end of the term of Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan where then Associate Justice Andres R. Narvasa assumed the position as Acting Chief Justice prior to his official appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. To argue an implied repeal is disingenuous.

It is also a misrepresentation of the letter and intent of the law to say that the President can appoint the next Chief Justice even in the absence of a nomination from the JBC. The flimsy justification advanced in support of this position is that Section 9, Article VIII of the Constitution on the power of the JBC to submit nominations refers only to "members of the Supreme Court."

It insults the intelligence of even the most puerile mind for anyone to argue that the Chief Justice is not a member of the Supreme Court. Section 4(1), Article VIII of the Constitution clearly states that the Supreme Court is composed of "a Chief Justice and fourteen Associate Justices." Since the ratification of the 1987 Constitution and the establishment of the JBC, all appointments of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, including the appointment of Chief Justice Puno by the incumbent President, were issued on the basis of the list of nominees submitted by the JBC. It taxes credulity how such a misinterpretation of the Constitution can be foisted upon our people.

What is clear is that anyone taking part in this shameful conspiracy to trample upon the Constitution in blind obedience to the whims of today's wielders of power will have to contend with penal laws that punish their actions.

Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code defines the issuance of midnight appointments and promotions during an election ban as an election offense and punishes with imprisonment and permanent disqualification from office all principals, accomplices and accessories in this illegal act.

Section 3 (a) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act also punishes with imprisonment and disqualification from public office anyone "persuading, inducing or influencing another public officer to perform an act constituting a violation of rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority or an offense in connection with the official duties of the latter, or allowing himself to be persuaded, induced, or influenced to commit such violation or offense."

That both penal laws impose the penalty of disqualification from public office emphasize that these acts constitute a clear betrayal of public trust. Let it be known that apart from individuals now obviously complicit in this attack against our fundamental law, anyone who succumbs to the temptation of power and accepts an illegal appointment to become the next Chief Justice benefits from the proceeds of the crime and shall stand criminal prosecution.

When the powerful begin to misinterpret clear provisions of law to suit their selfish ends, the law becomes a tool for the mighty when it was meant as protection for the weak.

We implore the Judicial and Bar Council to stand in defense of the rule of law and to restore decency in the process of succession to the highest office in our judicial establishment. We ask them not to bow down to the blatant abuse of power by a partisan few.

We simply ask people in whom we have reposed our trust to serve our nation, to follow the Constitution, to act with a modicum of decency, and to stand on the right side of history as we join hands in defeating the machinations of those betraying the public trust.

RAOUL R. ANGANGCO (1995-1997)

JOSE AGUILA GRAPILON (1997-1999)

ARTHUR D. LIM (1999-2001)

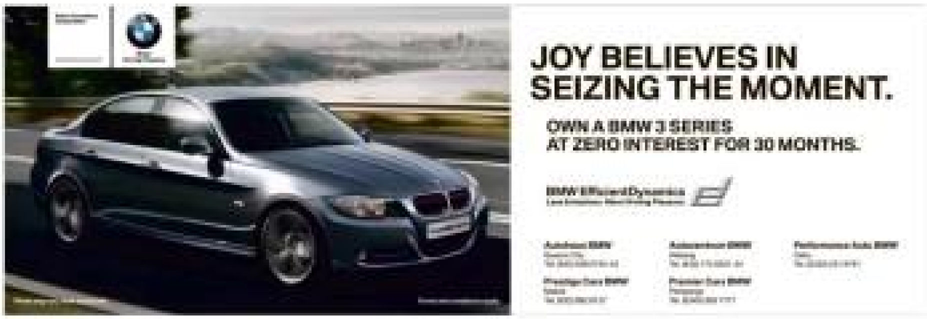
TEOFILO S. PILANDO (2001-2003)

FELICIANO M. BAUTISTA (2007-2009)

# Behind bars, Trillanes is top travel spender

# RH bill, too hot to handle, is dead



# Ping sneaks out of RP

## Not yet a fugitive

## Political rendition

## 'I'd do the same'

# Voters prefer 'principled person' in Palace, says poll

## Voters' preference

## Improved ratings

# Comelec plays down jammers' ability to disrupt vote

## Expect the worst

## Satellite or cell phone?

## Concocted conspiracy theory

## Absurd speculation

# Jamby's 'candidates': It's Noynoy or Nicky

## 'Not in his hands'

## After days of silence

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

# Wreckage found off Balabac that of sunken US sub

# Palace happy Villar is not hitting GMA

### Tectonic shift

### Not insecure

### 18,000 youth volunteers

# Villar takes Senate floor: It's nothing but politics

### Villar's defense

### Painful

### Session suspended



I DID NOTHING WRONG

### Boy who cried wolf

### Dream

### Crab mentality

### Source of wealth

# 12 senators, ex-justices say no to GMA naming Chief Justice

### Legal experts divided

### Next President

### Contrary view

### Submit list

### Asia Pacific Bar Association

### Appeal to Corona

### Most senior

# Bicam approves immigration act

### More secure country

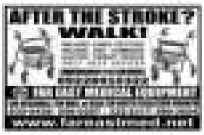
### Security of tenure

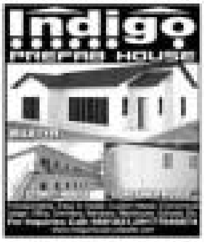
# Binay warns of seniors' revolt over EVAT



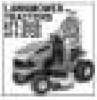







# Interest on coops' deposits tax free—SC

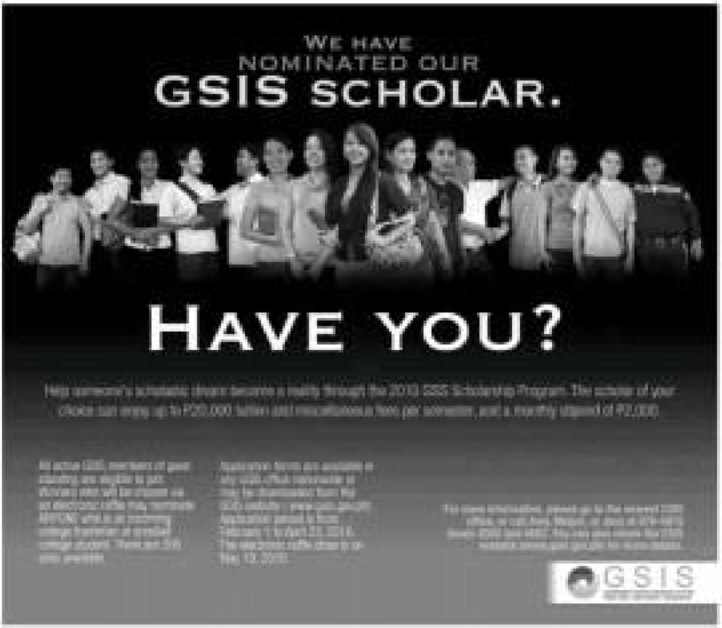






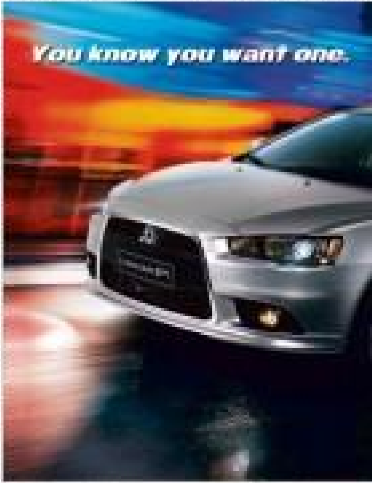


## Corrections

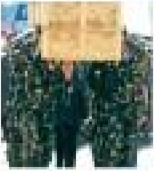


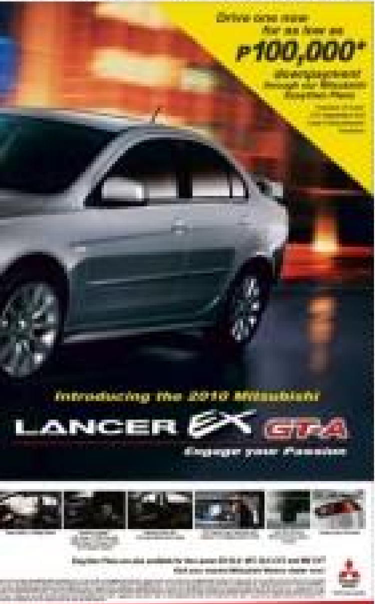
# Heroes' welcome...

# 'A mother should not bury her son'



# Senate endorses plunder case vs Jocjoc






# Poll body OKs makeover

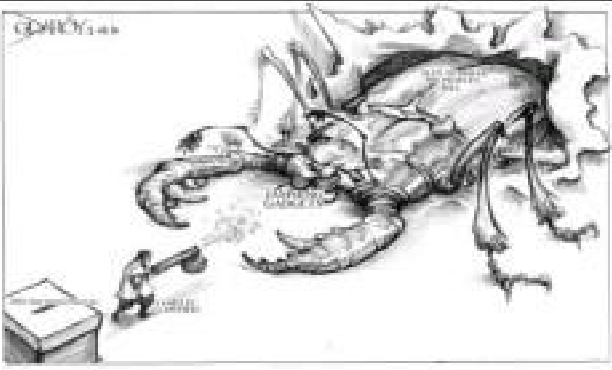
INQUIRER

# OPINION

## Failure an option?

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



## The CJ issue, explained (Part 2)

As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

[illegible]

## Differences

There's the Rub

*Conrado de Quiros*

[illegible]

# Statistical mirage

ANALYSIS



*Amando Doronila*

# One green initiative

AT LARGE



*Rina Jimenez-David*

# History in albums

LOOKING BACK



*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

# Muslims around us

PINOY KASI



*Michael L. Tan*

# Delicadeza on leave

LETTERS

# Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

# LP bet to Noynoy: Give up hacienda



FOOD COLOR

LUCENA CITY—A CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR senator under the Liberal Party asked the party's standard-bearer, Sen. Benigno Aquino III, to give up his family's ownership of Hacienda Luisita and distribute the estate to farmers.

## NEWSBRIEFS

ISABELA

### 5 soldiers killed

PAMPANGA

### Korean vs Korean

ZAMBALES

### 8 fishermen missing

LAGUNA

### Tie-up for reforms

EVENT

### Loren turns 50



LEGARDA

# GMA: RP bankrupt when I took over in '01

## President boasts of economic gains in speech before Angeles students

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

# In this Ibaloi cultural capital, coffee is an elixir of youth




DRIVING THROUGH THE newly built Bagabag-Nueva Vizcaya road is a breeze. But detouring along the way toward the upland town of Kabayan in Benguet is another experience.

[illegible]

## Spanish trail

[illegible]



KABAYAN resident Thale Marzano, 71, attributes his long life to Arabica coffee beans grown in his backyard.



FORMER Kabayan Mayor Florentino Merino is also the town's historian.

> That the centuries-old coffee trees are still thriving and bearing fruits must be good reasons to protect them

[illegible]

## Barter

[illegible]

## Coffee trees

[illegible]



Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor: Francis T.J. Ochoa

# SPORTS

# Patriots gun for ABL title berth vs KL squad today

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE REST FOR coach Louie Alas' wards going into today's match, when the Philippine Patriots shoot for a championship berth against the Kuala Lumpur Dragons in the Asean Basketball League semifinals.

"We have to keep our focus," said Alas.

GAME TODAY
(Stadium, Malaysia)
The Patriots vs Kuala Lumpur Dragons



THE TROPANG Texters will try to finish off Ronald Tubid (right) and the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings tonight.

# P'foods, TNT target sweeps

## Game 3 will be '10 times tougher'

By Musong R. Castillo

THOUGH THEY KNOW HOW TOUGH IT will be, Purefoods and Talk 'N Text try to sweep separate foes today and complete their respective march into the semifinals of the KFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

# Pacman by knockout, says Roach

By Roy Luarca



ROACH: Late rounds

# Davadilla tops LPGMA Tour of Luzon test race

By Jose Navarro



TWO-TIME champ Stefano Marcelo (No. 1) keeps his pace against Rev Takahashi (No. 13) in the exciting Race 2 duels to finish tied with the Japanese driver in the kickoff of the 2010 Pagcor KF2-KF3 Cup Karting Series.

# Stefano shares racing honors with Japanese

# Air Force Climb to the Top of the Table

By: Jesus Jandang

The action in the UFL continued on Sunday night with two gripping First Division encounters played at Nomads in Merville, Parañaque. Anticipation was extremely high going into this weekend's match-ups, particularly as the two favorites to win the league, Kaya Diggers and Air Force Rider, were to go head-to-head for the first time this season.

The match got off to a scintillating pace, with Air Force remarkably in the mood to hustle and harry and pen Kaya in their own half. With an amazing spell of pressure early on, the

LBC-UFL Cup champions Air Force Rider, flexed their muscles as they bagged two goals in quick succession in a span of 15 minutes. Although the shell-shocked Kaya Diggers found their feet more and more as the match wore on, a goal ten minutes from time turned out to be nothing more than just a consolation.

Union Rudy Project and Army Philam clashed in the 8pm match, battling to a feisty 1-1 draw that saw Army fail to capitalize despite dominating possession and the clear goal-scoring opportunities.

With Air Force Rider dispatching of the highly rated Kaya Diggers 2-1, the LBC-UFL Cup champions are now the frontrunners to win the league as well, as they soar to the pinnacle of the UFL league standings with four points.

With the clubs really starting to understand the difficulty involved in sustaining the consistent run of form necessary to win the league, the coming games are sure to showcase even more tenacity. Catch all the exciting match-ups and witness the drama unfold when the First Division continues on Sunday.

Check "LBC United Football League" on facebook to check for the latest UFL results and fixtures.

PhilHealth

*Your Partner in Health*

# As we celebrate our 15th Anniversary, we salute our partners who helped us achieve our mandate of universal coverage and ensure quality health care for all Filipinos.

## Recipients of Special Citations from PhilHealth

**UNIVERSALLY COVERED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**

[illegible]

**Provinces**

[illegible]

**Cities**

[illegible]

**ACCREDITED COLLECTING AGENTS**

[illegible]

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

[illegible]

**Hospitals**

[illegible]

**DOTS Providers**

[illegible]

**EMPLOYERS**

[illegible]

**Private Sector**

[illegible]

**Government Sector**

[illegible]



**To all of you who continue to believe in our mission, and support our advocacies, thank you very much!**

Dr. REY B. AQUINO
PhilHealth President and CEO

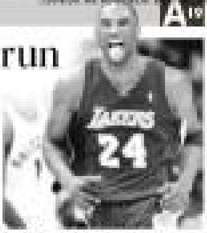
*A Toast to Universal Coverage*

**12 February 2010**
**PICC Reception Hall 8:00 a.m.**

Highlights:
- Awarding rites for partners and stakeholders
- Special citations to Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, Senator Edgardo J. Angara and former Senator Freddie N. Webb
- Keynote Address of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Hosted by:
Bobby Yan and Veronica Baluyut-Jimenez

# Grizzlies foil Kobe milestone; Jazz extend win run



PLAYER OF THE DECADE

# Bata bests top guns for plum



EFREN "Bata" Reyes, winner of 22 major titles in the last 10 years.

RP vs Czech Republic

## SBP needs to touch base with PBA

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

# Nat'l Open stakes RP team slots

SPORTSWATCH

220 K Big Event at SJC today

'Barkadahan' derby Feb. 5

# Ikeda-Ardina battle royale looms



ARDINA

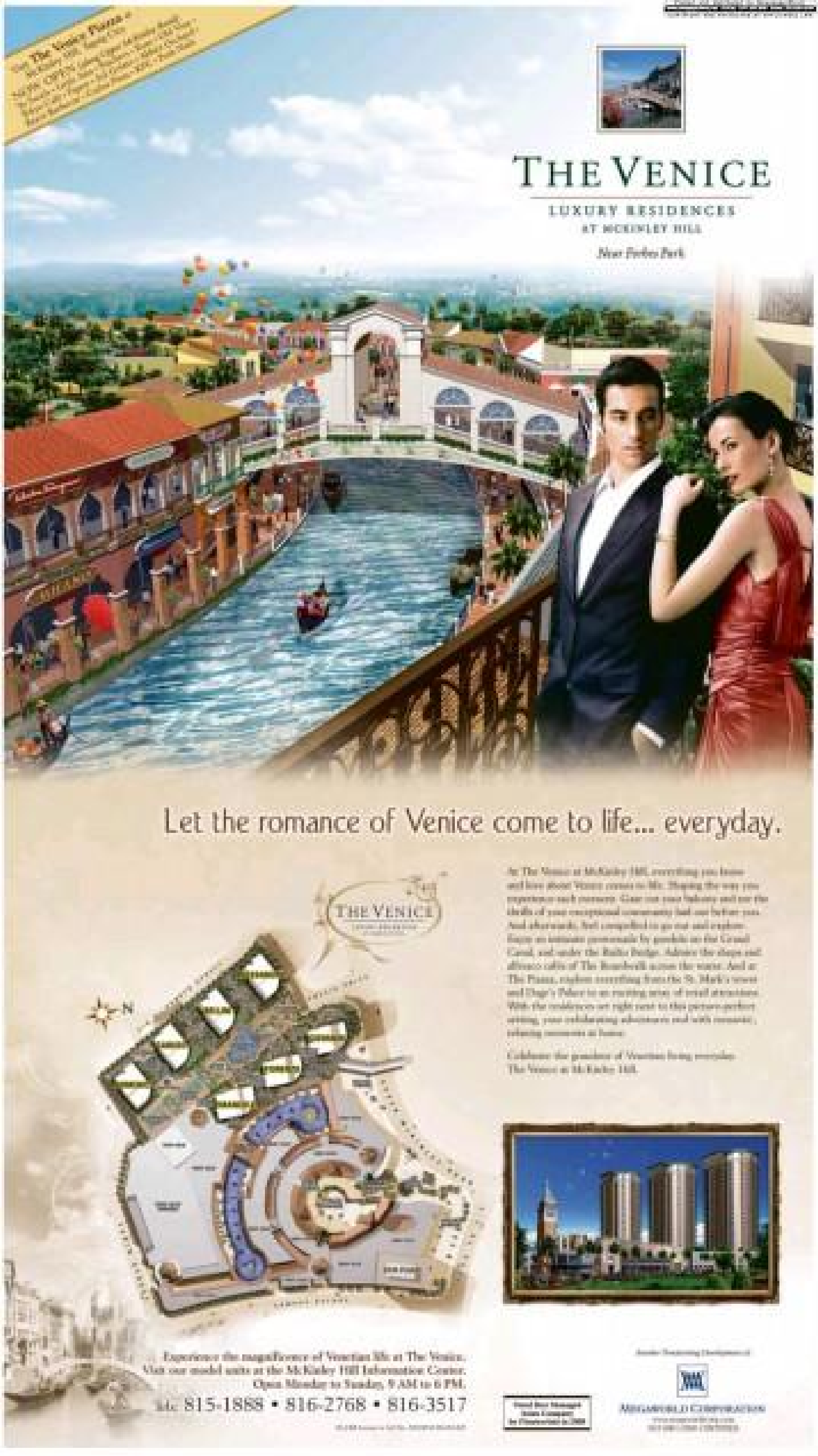
# PBL opening set; merger talks still on

## A satisfied fan at the Australian Open

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS



Tommy Manotoc


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MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

**DID YOU KNOW**
THE NUMBER of households in Metro Manila increased from 333,541 in 2000 to 383,450 in 2007.
*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*




# Weekend repairs to snarl traffic on Edsa

## DPWH expects reblocking project to be finished in April

By Kristine L. Alave

BE PREPARED FOR HEAVY traffic on one of Metro Manila's busiest thoroughfares even on weekends.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) yesterday asked motorists to exercise more patience while traveling on Edsa—parts of which would undergo rehabilitation every weekend until the middle of April.

Edilberto Tayao, DPWH National Capital Region director, said they were carrying out a concrete reblocking of sections of the 24-kilometer-long thoroughfare to cover potholes and cracks.

The rehabilitation project, he added, would take at least nine to 13 weekends to complete.

Tayao, meanwhile, advised motorists to take alternate routes for the duration of the project which, according to him, was approved by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

**Next: Area in front of Crame**

This coming weekend, the DPWH will close a portion of the northbound lane of Edsa, specifically the area in front of Camp Crame, for reblocking.

Tayao said DPWH personnel would work on the affected portion from 10 p.m. on Friday until Sunday morning.

The newly repaired section will be opened to motorists at 4 a.m. on Monday to give the cement time to dry, he added.

Last weekend, DPWH workers repairing a portion of Edsa near the P. Tuazon, Cubao area closed two lanes of the major thoroughfare to vehicles, causing traffic to crawl at a snail's pace for several hours.

Tayao said the DPWH would announce which portions of Edsa would undergo repairs over the next few weeks so that motorists could avoid the affected area and take alternate routes.





# MMDA posted GMA streamers on footbridges, says QC official

By Julie M. Aurelio

DON'T LOOK AT US.

An official of the Quezon City government yesterday pointed to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) as the agency behind the posting of huge streamers bearing a message for the President on footbridges on Commonwealth Avenue.

"First of all, the pedestrian footbridges where the streamers are placed were constructed by the MMDA," said Tadeo Palma, secretary to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., and the one in charge of implementing a 20-year-old city ordinance which prohibits the posting of campaign materials in public places.

The other day Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), urged the city government to take down the streamers on footbridges along the thoroughfare.

The tarpaulins bear the following message: Salamat po! Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sa footbridge na ito (Thank you President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for this footbridge).

Reyes said the tarpaulins must be taken down because the ordinance should apply to all candidates, including Ms Arroyo who is running for Congress in her home province of Pampanga.

The city ordinance was authored in 1990 by then Councilor Alberto Gallegos, who is now the head of the city government's Liquor Licensing and Regulatory Board.

Palma said, "It is MMDA who has jurisdiction over this as it is their property where the streamers are placed."

However, he pointed that the President was a candidate in Pampanga, "not in Quezon City."

Reached by the Inquirer for comment, MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said he would have to check which agency mounted the streamers on their footbridges in Quezon City.

He added that he was not sure if the MMDA had posted the giant banners although he said that since the President was not running for office in Metro Manila, the streamers were not in violation of the Quezon City government's ordinance. *With Niña Calleja*

# BF Homes residents in Las Piñas slam suspension of water project

By Niña Calleja

RESIDENTS OF BF HOMES IN LAS PIÑAS City have expressed disappointment over the suspension by water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) of its pipe-laying activities in the area.

Tony Tiosay, director of the United BF Homeowners Association Inc., told the Inquirer over the phone that "a social volcano [was] likely to erupt" in Las Piñas with homeowners considering holding rallies to protest MWSI's action which, according to him, was ordered by Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar.

"Homeowners are already tired of Aguilar's flip-flopping which hinders the opportunity of having a clean and inexpensive [source of] water in our homes," Tiosay said.

He added that homeowners were upset because by the end of next month, only households in the part of the subdivision which lies in Las Piñas City would be without water.

There are over 13,000 houses in BF Homes which straddles three cities in the southern part of Metro Manila—Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Las Piñas. About a fourth of the households in the subdivision are in Las Piñas.

Sought for comment, Mark Anthony Santos, the mayor's chief of staff, told the Inquirer that it was not the city government that had ordered Maynilad to stop installing pipelines in the area.

"It was Don Jesus [vice president of BF Homes Inc.] who told MWSI to put their activities on hold," Santos said.

BF Homes Inc. is the subdivision developer.

Tiosay however claimed that Vice Mayor Henry Medina had told Regine Cruz, Maynilad district manager, to stop work in the area because of a pending issue over the ownership of certain areas where the diggings were being conducted.

According to Tiosay, Medina was referring to the stretch of Palace Street from Tropical Avenue to the Southland gate of BF Las Piñas; Moscow Street from Tropical to the Mariposa gate; and Tropical Avenue from Palace Street to Pilar Avenue. These areas were reportedly not part of the subdivision but were the property of the Aguilar family, he added.

Santos, meanwhile said that Medina had merely told Maynilad that he would try to talk to BF Homes Inc. about lifting the suspension.



# Korean nabbed for rape try

# QC court to study Ivler's medical records

### Murder charge

## MetroBriefs

### Driver electrocuted

### Man loses bike

### 65th year of Battle for Manila

# The WORLD



# Woman suicide bomber kills 54 in Iraq

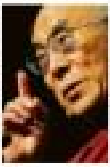
BAGHDAD—A FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBER DETONATED HER EXplosives inside a way station for Shiite pilgrims on Monday, killing 54 people and rattling security officials who are struggling against a possible rise in violence before key elections next month.



TWO MEN weep unabashedly for relatives who died in a massive blast caused by a female suicide bomber during a pilgrimage of Shiites northeast of Baghdad.

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Obama told: Meet Dalai Lama, anger China execs



DALAI LAMA

### Anwar says Malaysia PM behind sodomy charges



MALAYSIAN opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim after a court appearance

### Return-to-moon plan dies

### Poison milk back in China

# No Google? So what, say Chinese 'Net users

"If Google leaves China, we'll lose one search engine. But we still have other choices ..."

BEIJING—A WORLD WITHOUT GOOGLE? They can imagine it just fine in China. After all, it's not like losing "World of Warcraft."

IN THIS ISSUE



# BUSINESS



# Strong peso to help temper inflation in '10

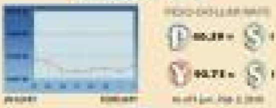
## Rise in foreign capital inflow to prop up currency

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas expects the peso to remain strong this year and help temper the rise in consumer prices, keeping it within the government's ceiling.

# Treasury nixes tenders for 7-year bonds

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Share prices drop



INQUIRER MONITOR

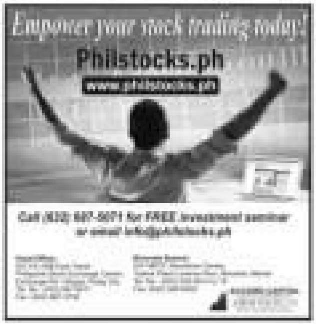
Nearly a million more Filipinos employed (2008-2009)



# BSP likely to keep banks' reserve requirement

# Victorias seeks new rehab plan

By Doris C. Dumlao













## Share prices ...

## Philippine Stock Exchange

## Currencies

# BPO service provider opens $16-M facility

## US firm sets up business in RP



# Stock market faces bumpy ride this year

## But broker says it's on its way up

# Business hits 'double taxation' in Shell case

# Tanduay raises P5B through bond sale

# Big drop in 'palay' output seen this year due to El Niño

# Strong peso to help . . .

# Treasury nixes tenders for 7-year bonds

# BSP likely to keep banks' reserve . . .

# Designed to fail

## Biz Buzz

*By the staff*

Dorris C. Dumlao

### Return to the crime scene

### Leaving the scene

# San Miguel plans to sell food brands to SMPFC for ₱3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

# RP prepares for more sugar imports in 2010

## DOE tightens watch over Mindanao plants

## High sugar prices to remain until 2011, says Coscolluela

# BUSINESS

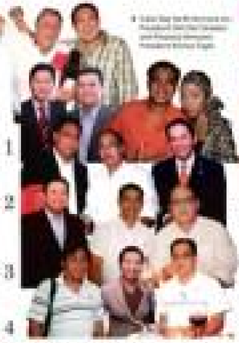
## Factory activity fueling modest US growth

### Key manufacturing index grew for sixth straight month




## PLDT's new SubicTel Innolab, ready for the knowledge economy





## Asia shares off 3-mo lows

## Toyota braces for big sales hit

# MOTORING

# 'RP not affected by recall' — Toyota, Honda



By Tessa R. Salazar

## Toyota's year of the hybrids

By Abigail L. Ho

## Inquirer Car Buyer's Guide

Compiled by Charles E. Buban



# BMW X1: Driving pleasure at your fingertips

### BMW 'baby-SAV' debuts in RP



A HIGHER seating position and driver-oriented design of the cockpit



THE DIESEL engine boasts common-rail fuel injection and a turbocharger

## Staying out of the debt trap

By Alvin Uy

#### Excessive spending

#### The Joneses are broke

#### Define your debt "ceiling"

# Modest tweaks, big results for the new CR-V





### Adjusted

### Driving new ideas



## MotoScope

### Isuzu still No. 1 among truck buyers



### Lancer EX launched at Alabang Mango Tee

### Xpel DIY paint protection

## Subaru sales surge again, up 56% in 2009



## BMW X1: Driving pleasure . . .

# A totally different Tucson



ON THE ROAD



Compare





Missing

Interior

Inquirer Car Buyer's Guide



LIFESTYLE Parenting





No, it's no quick-fix for your child's homework battles, but its formula has yielded results



# Tutoring right in the mall

W HEN SUSAN REYES' ONly child was growing up, he was so independent that Reyes could recall only a few times when he approached her for help with his homework. Other moms and dads aren't as lucky, Reyes would discover years later.

[illegible]

## Weekend

[illegible]


FAIL Sto Ring, Business magnate and Consul to Grenada, Luis Ablaza and Cosmo Manila's grand party hostess Mellie Rosario Ablaza, Queen of all Fairies, in a Boom deLeon gown


TESS Syquia, Marilou Po Bonito, Czarina Ablaza, Tessa Ablaza and Angeli Ong


MEGA magazine's Earl Pay, Marinia Madrigal Vergara and Nyaylily Valencia


RANDY and Cecilia Limjoco, Jenjen Ablaza, Teresita Ramboning Uibero and Vicky Acosta


DR. JOJO and Czarina Syquia with kids


TRISTAN and Bobot Macapanda, Marc Ablaza, and Letty and Gaither Tumangan

# Mellie Ablaza celebrates her birthday with fairy theme


NAOMI Macatubal, Mila and Jana Ablaza




[illegible]


MARIA del Rosario and Rose Farris


KOOKS and Tessa Ablaza

## WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

*Moneiter Arracfe*



Photos by Alex Van Hagen using YEL Photo Studios

## Jewelry artists shine at Firma

[illegible]

## Britain's attractions entice more Filipino tourists

[illegible]



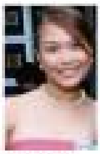

RODRIGO, Chinglee and Bobby Cuevas



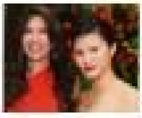


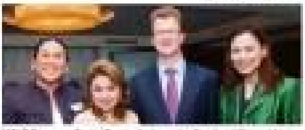

OLIVIA and Benny Limpe


SPECIAL guest of honor during the launch of VisitBritain: United Kingdom Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Lillie and Keith Beecham, VisitBritain overseas network director, who joined in for the exciting process


MABEL A. Lacson, VisitBritain press and PR manager for Southeast Asia


HEADTURNERS Fe and Rosey Rodriguez




MEGA Esquire's Becky Garcia, Ambassador Stephen Lillie and Lita Barde


FIRMA's super dynamic multifaceted duo Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo (extreme right), with the awesome talented Triad jewelry artists: Michelline Syjuco, Paul Syjuco and eye-catcher Kristine Dee


STYLE Bible's Bessie Po and Marilou Syjuco








# Tutoring right in the mall



### Reading, Math

## *Basic tutoring tips*

# Germ carriers around us

### The Consumer

Linda B. Bolido

### Feedback









# Friendship Month treats

# My 'magic formula' in polishing silverware

## No need to use commercial products

By Marisa D. Chikiamco
Contributor

FOR MANY OF US, THE weeks after the New Year are but a respite from family celebrations. Before long, it will be Valentine's Day, Easter Sunday, Mother's Day or someone's birthday—and it will be time to haul out our precious silverware again.

I've often used commercial polish to make the few silver ware ones I have shine. Lately, however, I haven't seen any commercial polish on the market. That's when I decided to try my friend Elsa's formula for cleaning silverware. Elsa, who lives in Amsterdam, says she has tried various ways of cleaning her own silverware and has found this method to be the most effective.

Indeed, it's almost like magic! Within seconds, the tarnish will disappear and the silverware starts to gleam like new again.

### Step By Step

1. Bring a large kettle of water to boil.

2. Line a deep heat-proof pan with aluminum foil, shiny side up.

3. Arrange silver items on top of the foil.

4. Mix baking soda and salt in equal parts.

5. When the water has boiled, add baking soda mixture and let mixture dissolve. Pour liquid on the silverware. Make sure all silver surfaces are immersed in water.

6. Let stand for several seconds.

7. Remove silverware from pan and wipe dry with a clean, soft cloth.







POLISHED silverware



SILVERWARE will shine with this eco-friendly method of polishing

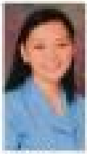
### Tips

# Ayala Land starts development in Olongapo

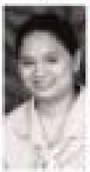
THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF Olongapo, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Ayala Land Inc. recently entered into a Letter of Agreement to master plan the 7-ha Olongapo City Triangle ...



# SEAIR extends Batanes Winter promo



PCS-ASAP moderator



CO-MODERATOR



### Chinese painting exhibit

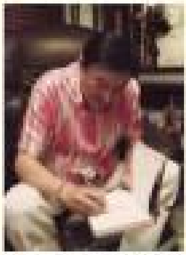
### Sun's Korean SMS

# ENTERTAINMENT









# Filipino is Oscars Designer Challenge finalist





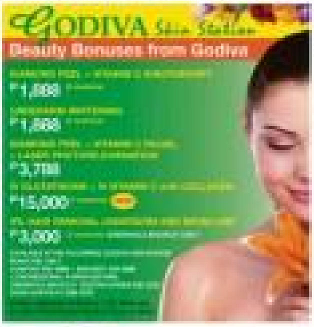

# Willie 'easy to like'



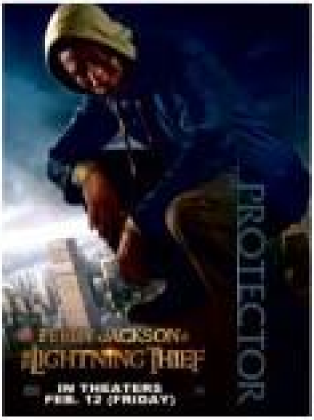
DOLLY WOO

Dolly Anne Carvajal







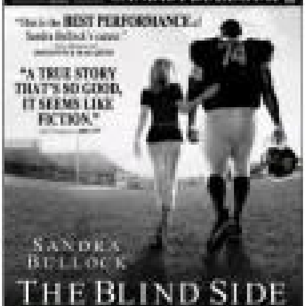

# Dolphy: I wasn't a priority Kapamilya

By Bayani San Diego Jr.









## Opening This Week



### The Princess and the Frog

### Case 39

### Did You Hear About the Morgans?

### Where the Wild Things Are

### Dear John

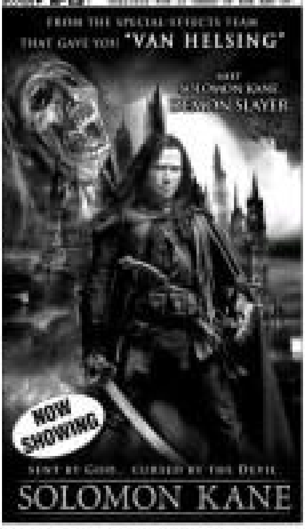
### Messengers 2: The Scarecrow

## Willie 'easy to like'

### Guess who

## Filipino…

### 3 gowns at Globes ball







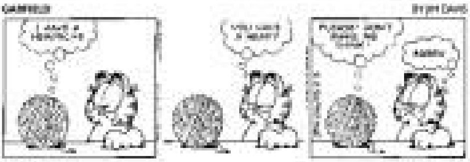








GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY





JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



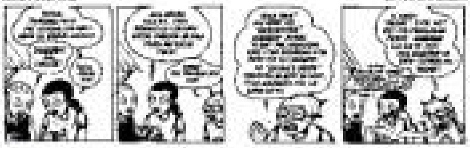
TULDOK



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



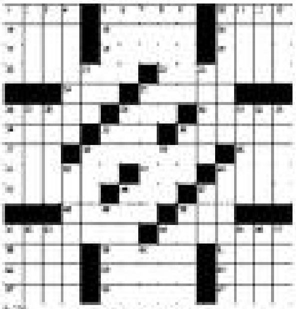
KIKO MACHINE

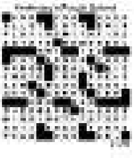




## HOROSCOPE

## CROSSWORD





## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

### HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 2 | | | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 9 | | | 1 | | 6 | | | 4 |
| 6 | | | 3 | | | | | 5 |
| 1 | | | 2 | | | | | 7 |
| | 9 | 4 | 6 | | | | 5 | |
| | | | 4 | | | | 3 | |
| | | | 7 | | | 5 | | |
| | | | 6 | | | 9 | | |
| | 8 | 3 | | | | 4 | | |

# 'Our families are freaking out'

OVERHEARD





# Teen star frolics on the isle of Lesbos

## Out-ing themselves

## Not interested

## Coach of discord

## Confirm, deny



RUSHES

## Lady Gaga rules

## Top of the talk shows